Agreement between NTPC and BSNL for communication facilities

t1555. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC has arrived at any agreement with the BSNL for the provision of communication facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) on 06.07.2004 for a special relationship for the purpose of providing communication facilities by BSNL and MTNL to NTPC. The MOU is intended to provide, among other things, the following advantage to NTPC within Government of India/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regaulations:

(i) Preferential volume discounts across the country.

(ii) Simplification of procedures.

(iii) Immediate service activation.

(iv) Single window service.

(v) Service level agreement for quality services.

Nagarjuna Power Project as mega project

1556. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has approved the Nagarjuna Power Project as mega Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions being offered by Government if this project treated as Mega Project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) An in-principle approval for mega power project status has been conveyed to the project, subject to other conditions laid down in the mega policy being fulfilled.

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) For mega projects, the import of capital equipments is free of customs duties and the domestic bidders get deemed export benefits as per the EXIM (Export-Import) policy. In addition, an income tax holiday of 10 years can be claimed by promoter in any block of 10 years within the first 15 years.

Tasks Forces to work out National Power Policy

f1557. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister POWER be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 134 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted to work out the national power policy, has finalized the same after obtaining opinion of the States if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the action taken so far/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Task Force on 'Power Sector Investments and Reforms' had done interaction with the States in a separate meeting. It also duly considered the views of the various State Governments that were expressed at the meetings convened by Ministry of Power in August, 2003 and communicated to the Task Force by the Ministry of Power.

Based on comments of various stakeholders received on the previous drafts as recommended by the Task Force and the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme a revised draft National Electricity Policy has now been formulated.

Draft National Electricity Policy aims at achieving the objectives of prodiving access to electricity to all households in next five years, fully meeting the demand of electricity, making available supply of reliable and quality power at reasonable rates and increasing per capita consumption to over 1000 units by year 2012. It addresses the issues of rural electrification, generation, transmission, distribution, technology development, financing, private sector participation, energy conservation, promotion of renewable and non conventional sources of energy, protection of consumers, interests etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.